

The history of Indian people could best be described as interpretations of related events by white historians. History, as most would agree, is a written summation of past events through the interpretation of various documents in various forms, which depict certain historical events. Indian people have been scrutinized and then depicted in these written documents. Essays have included depiction of Indian people as a defeated enemy, as a mistreated minority group, as a privileged citizen and as a mystic figure with mysterious powers. Perhaps there are other categories. The continued notion that writing about Indian people will somehow solve the "Indian problem" by allowing white people a truer understanding of Indian problems, beliefs and future vision, will not be the focus of this paper. Basic problems exist in the non-Indian world in numerous areas. This paper will discuss some problems that exist among groups who publicly exhibit some interest in associating with Indian "causes." The expression of these problems will be illustrated through the use of example.

Previous to this day we have heard of people who claim that they are going to save the earth. We have also heard discussion by those same people about evildoers who will destroy the earth. This is a flaw of white people's thinking. The inability to exclude the ego results in the notion that a certain people can not only destroy the earth but they can also save the earth. Never has a true Indian made such a claim. They should forget that they could destroy or save the earth and concentrate on humility. If the realization that they are insignificant in the natural scheme does not appear to them, then their insignificance will be demonstrated when the creation flicks them, like a dog flicks a flea. The day will come quickly. Two hundred years and they will be gone. Perhaps the slogan should be changed from "save the earth" to "save our butts."

A further distraction that has been placed upon Indian people is the notion of "rights." One day a well-meaning lawyer (if there is such a thing) or someone similar decided that, like all white people, Indians had rights. Indian people do not think in terms of rights but in terms of responsibility. Whatever flows from the fulfillment of those responsibilities are the gifts in life. The demanding of status from one's mere existence is ludicrous. The so-called fishing rights won by Indian people are not a gift bestowed by white people because of recognition by the white people of those rights. Those so-called "rights" are the result of traditional people fulfilling responsibilities to

fisheries through traditional ceremony and lifestyle. When it comes to fishing, Indians are not receiving a gift from the white people but a gift from the creation. The gift is the result of a fulfillment of responsibility through Indian belief.

The terms progressive or liberal seem to denote a socially conscious person. A socially conscious person would then be a person concerned with issues which bring about negative changes in Indian peoples' lifestyle, for the most part traditional lifestyles. If Indian people are being moved off the land on which they lived because of some corporate mining scheme, then a response would come from these socially conscious people. Unfortunately their social conscience is focussed against the corporate madhouse and with little interest in preserving traditional lifestyles. Publicly they use protection of the traditional lifestyle as a reason for their concern. That public outcry is a tool used against the corporate opposition and not necessarily a true concern. In the process of being socially conscious, white people always want to "understand" something before they can sanction validity with regards to that something. Indian people have been on this land a long time and have learned of the purpose of life. The white people do not need to understand that purpose but the white people have to start understanding their own purpose in life. Columbus called the people he first saw in this land *Indios*. The translation is - in god. The only *true* compliment a white people has ever given an Indian.

The final part of this paper is difficult. The difficulty lies in the admittance that not all Indians are Indians. They look Indian, talk Indian, and do a lot of things Indian people do except one. Indians who are paid for being Indian are not Indian. However, a larger problem exists, white folk who are paid for being Indian. The term white people has been used to this point as a descriptive word to denote a person who is of European ancestry. At this point the term white folk will be used instead. The terms have been changed to define the disgust the author holds for this category of people. White folk have decided that they can do everything Indians can do. As previously discussed, Indian people are being paid for being Indian. However, their numbers and their existence is small and short termed. These white folk on the other hand take out advertisements, send out mailers, and have seminars and workshops. They can, according to their pronouncements, turn anyone into a shaman, over the weekend, in six easy lessons, and various other ways. They almost sound like Madison Avenue

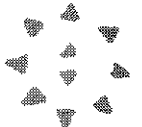
advertising experts. They're Madison Avenue for sure and experts at swindling the gullible. Unfortunately the gullible usually become "shamans" and then teachers, and the cycle continues. These white folk do know the twisted form of some ceremonies. This means an Indian somewhere in time allowed a white folk to view a ceremony and the rest is a bad experience. White folk as a matter of record always borrowed religions or belief from other people. The religion of the majority of people in this country is Christianity - a middle-eastern religion. White folk were never given a religion or belief by the creation, otherwise they would be involved in the practice of that religion or belief.

Throughout the course of existence Indian people have been subject to many predicaments. Adherence to traditional belief has always brought Indian people through these terrible times. However, Indian people will never face what the white people must face, they must face themselves. That includes the white people in the Americas and all other peoples of the Caucasian race. The two biggest bullies on earth continue to be white people who either live in the United States or the Soviet Union, with European white people closing fast. And the bullied continues to be native people of all lands.

In conclusion, reaction is the key word to remember. Record your reactions as you read this and act on that reaction in a beneficial way. Perhaps this paper is in error, perhaps this paper is exact. Just be grateful that I don't do this for a living and that my obscurity will continue. ♦

Obscurity As a Lifestyle

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